

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4436

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 4740

DEPARTMENT PASS NASA FOR FRUTKIN FROM AMBASSADOR GOULD

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TBIO, TSPA, NL

SUBJECT: SPEAKERS FOR DUTCH MEDICAL SOCIETY CONGRESS

1. HOPE YOU CAN HELP US WITH FOLLOWING UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT INDIRECTLY INVOLVING NASA: THE DUTCH ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY 1974 CONGRESS WILL OPEN OCTOBER 10 THIS YEAR IN LEIDEN. THE THEME, AS YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE, IS TO BE THE SPINOFF-BENEFITS OF SPACE MEDICINE. IT WILL BE A HIGHLY PRESTIGIOUS OCCASION, AND THE QUEEN PLANS TO ATTEND THE OPENING. THE CONGRESS HAS INVITED A NUMBER OF AMERICAN SPACE EXPERTS TO SPEAK. DR. CHARLES BERRY IS MOST PROMINENT OF THESE, AND IN A SEPTEMBER 9 CABLE TO J. BARENS WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF CONGRESS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (AS WELL AS LOCAL REP OF MERCK SHARP & DOHME), DR. BERRY SUGGESTED FIVE SPEAKERS: HAL SANDLER, SAM POOL, BEN MARTIN OF JET PROPULSION LABORATORIES, WEALD HEER AND ROBERT ZIMMERMAN. WHILE DR. BERRY TOLD BARENS PARTICIPATION OF THESE FIVE EXPERTS WAS NOT A CERTAINTY, SINCE NASA MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO FUND TRAVEL, HE WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC.

2. BARENS CONTACTED US HEADQUARTERS OF MERCK SHARP & DOHME, WHO OFFERED TO FUND TRAVEL FOR SPEAKERS IF NASA UNABLE TO FUND. WITH THIS ASSURANCE IN HAND, BARENS APPARENTLY ADVISED DR. BERRY AND PUT THE NAMES OF THE SPEAKERS IN THE PRINTED PROGRAM SCHEDULE, WHICH WAS THEN MAILED TO THE 1500 CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS. SEPT. 24

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BARENS RECEIVED A CABLE FROM DR. BERRY INDICATING THAT

WHILE HE WILL STILL SHOW, OTHER FIVE SPEAKERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND, DESPITE MERCK SHARP & DOHME GRANT OFFER.

3. CONGRESS ORGANIZERS, OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED, WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN EXPLAINING CANCELLATION BY MOST OF AMERICAN DELEGATION TO THE OTHER CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE GENERALLY INFLUENTIAL AND, IN SOME CASES, PRESTIGIOUS. IT IS PREDICTABLE THAT LEFT-WING PRESS WHICH MADE CAPITAL OF IMPERFECT ORBIT FOR DUTCH AND SATELLITE-EVEN GOING SO FAR AS TO CLAIM DELIBERATE SABOTAGE TO MAINTAIN US SPACE MONOPOLY-WILL JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO PAN AMERICAN SPACE PROGRAM AGAIN, CLAIMING WE ARE INSINCERE ABOUT SHARING SPACE SCIENCE.

4. FOR PRESERVATION OF NASA'S PR IMAGE AND BECAUSE CONGRESS FEELS, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, THAT IT HAS A COMMITMENT, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT WAY BE FOUND FOR SPEAKERS OR PERSONS OF EQUIVALENT STATURE TO ATTEND. PERHAPS AMA WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST SINCE, IN A SENSE, PRESTIGE OF US MEDICINE IS ALSO INVOLVED. GOULD

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